

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Thermally insulated containers are typically used to store and transport temperature sensitive items. ~~Temperatures within such containers must, therefore, be maintained within predetermined ranges.~~ These items may include human organs for transplant, products such as vaccines and drugs, ~~human organs for transplant,~~ tissue cultures, chilled or frozen foods, and/or many other [products] articles, some of which are not only of extraordinarily high value ~~and are, but also~~ extremely sensitive to changes in temperature. Accordingly, ~~For these reasons,~~ it is considered essential that such [products] items be maintained within appropriate temperature ranges during storage, transportation and/or use.

Please amend page 2, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention [is] to provide a container that not only suitably maintains its contents within an acceptable temperature range after the container has been subjected to changes in external conditions, [while] but also facilitat[ing]es notification of and intervention by the user to prevent temperatures within the container from migrating beyond selected temperature ranges.

Please amend the paragraph beginning after the fourth full paragraph on page 2 and ending before the first full paragraph on page 3, to read as follows:

According to one aspect of the present invention, ~~there is provided~~ a container is provided that includ[ing]es a payload volume, a sensor for measuring a selected environmental condition within the payload volume, and a ~~telecommunications~~ device for transmitting data relating to the environmental condition to a computerized monitoring system via a telecommunications network.

Please amend page 3, fifth full paragraph, to read as follows:

The ~~telecommunications~~ data transmitting device is desirably connected to the recorder device and arranged for transmitting data stored [in] on the recorder device to the computerized monitoring system. Preferably, the ~~telecommunications~~ data transmitting device is a cellular telephonic device.

Please amend page 3, sixth full paragraph, to read as follows:

In addition, it is preferred that the container include a switch device for deactivating the ~~telecommunications~~ data transmitting device. In one embodiment, the switch device is arranged to deactivate the ~~telecommunications~~ data transmitting device in response to the detector device's detection[g] of an electrical system that operates within [the] predetermined parameters. The switch device is used, for example, to

prevent operation of the ~~telecommunications~~ data transmitting device when the container is loaded onto an aircraft or is in close proximity to an aircraft, since operation of ~~telecommunications~~ data transmitting device can interfere with avionic systems on the aircraft.

Please amend page 7, seventh full paragraph, to read as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A specific, illustrative container, in accordance with the present invention ~~will now be~~ is described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, ~~by way of example only~~, in which:

Please amend page 8, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1-5, there is shown generally a specific, illustrative container, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention. According to one embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 1, a thermally insulated container 1 is provided. The container is preferably designed for use in transporting goods that must necessarily be maintained at a temperature between about + 2°C and about + 8°C, for example, vaccines and transplant organs. As will be understood by those skilled in the art, containers suitable for operation at other temperatures be generally similar in construction, but may be modified suitably for maintaining the

required temperatures. For instance, [with] in some applications, the internal temperature must be maintained generally within a range of + 20°C and + 30°C, whereas [for] with other applications, the internal temperature must be maintained relatively constant at approximately - 80°C.